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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 006354

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/14/2016
TAGS: [PREL](#) [UNSC](#) [IZ](#) [RS](#)
SUBJECT: RUSSIA SUPPORTS EXTENDING MNF-I MANDATE

REF: STATE 94552

Classified By: Minister-Counselor for Political Affairs Kirk Augustine.
Reasons: 1.4(B/D).

[¶1.](#) (C) Poloff delivered reftel demarche to MFA IO/UNSC Section Chief Vladimir Safronkov June 14. Safronkov said Russia fully supports continuing the MNF-I mandate and the DFI/IAMB arrangements and that the GOR would not present any obstacle to the extension. The Russian side would support a positive UNSC press statement on UNSCR 1637, Safronkov said, and might even propose that the UNSC President make a press statement.

[¶2.](#) (C) Safronkov also requested that the U.S. side make a statement in the course of UNSC discussions underlining the necessity of releasing the Russian hostages in Iraq as soon as possible.
BURNS